

NEW YORK CITY MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES
31 CHAMBERS ST., NEW YORK, NY 10007

Guide to the records of Mayor Seth Low, 1902-1903

Collection No. 0009

Original processing by unknown archivist, date unknown. Finding aid revised and encoded in EAD by staff archivist Rachel Greer, 2015; updated by staff archivist Alexandra Hilton, 2017.

Summary

Record Group: Office of the Mayor

Repository: New York City Municipal Archives, Department of Records and Information Services, 31 Chambers St., New York, NY 10007

Title of the Collection: Office of the Mayor, Seth Low records

Date: 1902-1903

Creator(s): Low, Seth, 1850-1916; New York (N.Y.). Office of the Mayor

Extent: 7.5 cubic feet

Location: The bulk of this collection is stored on-site at 31 Chambers St.

Access and Use: This collection is partially microfilmed. Patrons are required to use microfilm for those series for which it is available. Advance notice is required for using original material.

Language: English

Preferred citation: Office of the Mayor, Seth Low records, 1902-1903, Municipal Archives, City of New York

Processing note: This collection was processed by unknown persons at an unknown date. Finding Aid updated and encoded in EAD by staff archivist Rachel Greer in 2015 with additions by staff archivist Alexandra Hilton in 2017.

Biographical/Historical Information

Seth Low (1850-1916) served as the Mayor of New York from 1902-1903, on a fusion ticket of the Republican and Citizens Union parties. Prior to his tenure as Mayor, Low was the president of Columbia University and the former Mayor of Brooklyn as well as an activist in progressive politics. In comparison to his predecessor, Robert Van Wyck, Low was seen as a reformer in city politics. Low's mayoralty is most noted for introducing the civil service system into city government, streamlining the city's bureaucracies, improving the school system, and fighting graft in the police department. He ran for office in 1903, but was defeated, though he stayed active in politics, especially involving organized labor. Low died on September 17, 1916 at home in Upstate New York.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of a selection materials produced by the mayoral administration of Seth Low. The collection is not comprehensive, but does include material related to the daily work of his mayoral administration. The material includes correspondence both from citizens and businesses throughout the city, as well as correspondence received from City Departments, Commissions, and Agencies. In addition, official documentation such as bills and legislation as well as a small amount of ephemera comprise the Subject Files series. Please see the scope and content notes for each series for further information.

Arrangement

The Seth Low records are divided into four series, and are arranged alphabetically within each series:

Series I: Departmental Correspondence Received

Series II: Subject Files

Series III: General Correspondence Received

Series IV: Scrapbook

Container List

Series I: Departmental Correspondence Received

Date(s): 1902-1903

Size (Extent): 3.5 cubic feet

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence received by the Office of the Mayor, primarily from other City agencies and Departments.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Access: This series is not microfilmed.

Location: 31 Chambers St., Shelf 1536-1542

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	Account Book	1903
1	2	Account Book	1903
1	3	Commissioners of Account	1902 January
1	4	Commissioners of Account	1902 August
1	5	Commissioners of Account	1902 September
1	6	Commissioners of Account	1903
1	7	Board of Aldermen	1902-1903
1	8	Aqueduct Commissioners Office	1902-1903
1	9	Armory Commissioners, Board of	1902
1	10	Art Commission	1902-1903
1	11	Board of Assessors	1902
1	12	Borough Presidents	1902-1903
1	13	Department of Bridges	1902-1903
1	14	Department of Buildings	1902
2	15	City Chamberlain	1902-1903
2	16	City Clerk	1902
2	17	City College	1902-1903
2	18	City Marshall	1902-1903
2	19	City Record	1902-1903
2	20	Comptroller	1903
2	21	Department of Correction	1902-1903
2	22	Courts	1902-1903
2	23	District Attorneys	1902-1903
2	24	Department of Docks and Ferries	1902-1903
2	25	Board of Education	1902
2	26	Board of Education (1)	1903
2	27	Board of Education (2)	1903
2	28	Board of Elections	1902-1903
3	29	Board of Estimate	1902-1903
3	30	Board of Plumbers Examining	1902-1903

Box	Folder	Title	Date
3	31	Department of Finance	1902-1903
3	32	Department of Finance	1903
3	33	Fire Department	1902
3	34	Fire Department	1903
3	35	Department of Health	1902
3	36	Department of Health	1903
3	37	Commissioner of Jurors	1902
3	38	Law Department	1902
3	39	Law Department	1903
3	40	Bureau of Licenses	1902-1903
4	41	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers	1903
4	42	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers (Contribution Letters)	1903
4	43	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers (Contribution Letters)	1903
4	44	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers (Contribution Letters)	1903
4	45	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers (Receipts Book)	1903
4	46	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers Receipts	1903
4	47	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers (Statements and Reports)	1903
4	48	Mayors Committee for Relief of Sufferers (Treasurers Reports)	1903
5	49	Mayor's Office	1902
5	50	Mayor's Office (1)	1903
5	51	Mayor's Office (2)	1903
5	52	Mayor's Office (3)	1903
5	53	Mayor's Office (4)	1903
5	54	Municipal Civil Service Commission	1902
5	55	Municipal Civil Service Commission	1903
5	56	Municipal Explosives Commission	1902-1903
6	57	Department of Parks	1902
6	58	Department of Parks	1903
6	59	Police Department	1902-1903
6	60	Police Department	1902 February
6	61	Police Department	1902-1903
6	62	Police Department	1902-1903
6	63	Police Department	1902 April
6	64	Police Department	1902-1903
6	65	Department of Public Charities	1902

Box	Folder	Title	Date
6	66	Board of Public Improvements	1902
7	67	Public Library	1902-1903
7	68	Commissioner of Public Works	1903
7	69	Board of Rapid Transit	1902
7	70	Commissioner of King County Records	1902
7	71	Sheriff's Office	1902
7	72	Commissioner of Sinking Fund	1902
7	73	Commissioner of Sinking Fund	1903
7	74	Street Cleaning	1903
7	75	Department of Taxes and Assessments	1902-1903
7	76	Tenement House Department	1902-1903
7	77	Department of Water Supply	1902
7	78	Department of Water Supply, Gas, and Electricity	1903

Series II: Subject Files

Date(s): 1902-1903

Size (Extent): 1 cubic foot

Scope and Content: This series contains correspondence, ephemera, official documentation of laws, and other material related to the daily functioning of the Office of the Mayor.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically by subject.

Access: This series is available on Microfilm Roll 1, Negative number 8372.

Location: 31 Chambers St., Shelf 1544-1545

Box	Folder	Title	Sub-title	Date
1	1	Atlantic Avenue Improvement Bill		1902-1903
1	2	Bronx Garbage Incinerator: Protests against 144th St. & Whitlock Avenue Location	Protests: Incinerator Plant at 144th St & Whitlock	1903
1	3	Butchers' Abattoir Bill	Abattoir Erection (Bill #598)	1903
1	4	City Advertising		1902
1	5	City Ordinances: Ornamental Project. Beyond Building Lines	Permits: to Permit Ornamental Projection on Certain Buildings	1903
1	6	Complaint against City Marshal Lee		1902
1	7	Declaration of God's Will		1903
1	8	Education, Board of: Charges against Secretary Palmer		1902
1	9	Firemen's Two Platoon Bill		1903
1	10	Firemen's Two Platoon Bill		1903
1	11	Morgan Library Bill: Brooklyn Library Incorporation		1902

Box	Folder	Title	Sub-title	Date
1	12	Navy Desertions: Notifications about NYC Residents	Desertions	1902-1903
1	13	Public Auctions: Lists and Catalogs		1903
1	14	Receptions: Count Matsukata of Japan		1902
1	15	Receptions: Prince Henry of Prussia		1902
1	16	Salaries, City Employees		1902-1903
1	17	Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children: Applications for Performances	Applications to Exhibit Children	1902-1903
2	18	Department of Street Cleaning		1902-1903
2	19	Thirty-ninth Street Ferry: City Acquisition Bill		1903
2	20	Board of Trade: Opinions on Legislation		1903
2	21	Wallabout Market Liquor Sale Prevention Bill		1903

Series III: General Correspondence Received

Date(s): 1902-1903

Size (Extent): 0.5 cubic feet

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence received by the Mayor's office from citizens, businesses, organizations, and those outside of City government.

Arrangement: This series is arranged alphabetically either by personal name or by business or agency name.

Access: This series is not microfilmed.

Location: 31 Chambers St., Shelf 1543

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	1	A	1902-1903
1	2	B	1902-1903
1	3	C	1902-1903
1	4	D	1902-1903
1	5	E, F, G	1902-1903
1	6	H, I, J, K	1902-1903
1	7	L	1902-1903
1	8	M	1902-1903
1	9	N	1902-1903
1	10	O, P, Q	1902-1903
1	11	R	1902-1903
1	12	S	1902-1903
1	13	T	1902-1903
1	14	U, V, W	1902-1903
1	15	Whitman, Charles S.	1903

Box	Folder	Title	Date
1	16	Y, Z	1902-1903

Series IV: Scrapbook

Date(s): 1902

Size (Extent): 1 volume

Access: This item may be too fragile to handle in the original form; consultation with archivist and conservator is required before patron use.

Location: Off-site, Shelf 159323

Volume	Title	Date
1	Seth Low Scrapbook	1902